



**McCOLLOUGH  
INSTITUTE**  
*for* PRE-MEDICAL SCHOLARS

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



**Dr. Ted Poston,**  
Director  
McCollough Institute for  
Pre-Medical Scholars  
The University of Alabama

Greetings from the Capstone! We are celebrating the successes of the McCollough Scholars. The inaugural class graduated in the spring with 100% success in earning admission to graduate or medical school. The graduates are beginning graduate training in diverse healthcare professions: medicine, law, business, and pharmaceutical sciences. We are continuing to partner with local healthcare providers to provide shadowing for the scholars. We also recently have welcomed our 5th class to campus. Be sure to check out the student profiles on our website. You'll see in this newsletter several of the accomplishments from our faculty and students. Roll Tide!

## FACULTY NEWS



**Dr. Jennifer Gleason**

### Dr. Jennifer Gleason

The McCollough Pre-Medical Scholars Program welcomes Dr. Jennifer Gleason. Dr. Gleason is a philosopher of social metaphysics specializing in the philosophy of mental health and mental disorder. Her research asks what mental disorder is and how we need to understand mental health to provide medical help for those that need it. Dr. Gleason is currently working a book project that considers questions about the relationship (if any) between mental disorder and mental dysfunction. Additionally, she argues that our understanding of mental disorder needs to change if we are to (i) get medical help for those that need it, and (ii) destigmatize mental disorders in order to enable people to get comfortable seeking the medical help they need. Dr. Gleason completed her PhD in Philosophy at the Ohio State University in 2019 with a dissertation project that

became the launching point of her current book project. Dr. Gleason joined the University of Alabama in the Fall of 2021, where she teaches in the Philosophy & Medicine track in the Department of Philosophy. She is also an instructor for the Medical Foundations courses at the McCollough Institute for Pre-Medical Scholars. She wants to instill the same passion for medical ethics that she is in the students she teaches.

# 21ST ANNUAL MCCOLLOUGH MEDICAL SCHOLARS FORUM



The 21st Annual McCollough Medical Scholars Forum sponsored by Dr. Gaylon and Mrs. Susan McCollough and the College of Arts & Sciences took place on February 10, 2023. The Forum's aim is to emphasize the importance of liberal arts education in the study and practice of medicine. This forum's guest speakers:

**Jeffrey Bishop, M.D., Ph. D.** - Dr. Bishop is a social and moral philosopher and physician, who teaches medical ethics and philosophy. Professor Bishop holds the Tenet Endowed Chair in Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University and is a faculty member of the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics.

**Dr. Danny Potts, M.D., FAAN** - Dr. Potts is the attending neurologist at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Specializing in dementia and geriatrics. Dr. Potts has been practicing medicine for over 20 years.

**Joseph Zasa, J.D.** - Joseph Zasa is a co-founder and managing partner of ASD Management. His focus has been on structuring, developing, and managing the firm's surgery centers, and day-to-day operations.

Third- and fourth-year medical students were provided the opportunity to engage in conversation with the guest speakers, faculty members, and health care professionals regarding humanistic and social issues in medicine.

## MCCOLLOUGH SCHOLAR ALUMNI

### McCollough Pre-Medical Scholars Inaugural Class

Dr. Ted Poston, Director of MPMS and Professor of Philosophy shown with graduates of the McCollough Pre-Medical Scholars Program.

He has been directing the program since 2018. The McCollough Institute for Pre-Medical Scholars offers a minor in interdisciplinary medical studies to a small cohort of aspiring physicians.

Current graduates plan to attend the following colleges/universities:

ETH Zurich: Master in Pharmaceutical Sciences  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center MD  
Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine  
NOVA Southeastern University of Florida  
Mercer University MD  
VCOM, Carolinas  
UAB Med School  
McGovern Medical School, MD  
UA Law School  
UA MBA (STEM-MBA)



Pictured top row left to right: Jordan Albrecht, Ryan David, Ashlyn Dull, Jack Strubel, Jessica Tabary, & Joy Becher. Pictured bottom row left to right: Emily Pack, Spencer Favor, Dr. Ted Poston (Director), Kaitlyn Clamp & Phoebe Guidry

***Congratulations MC graduates!***

# MCCOLLOUGH SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



Ethan Pearson

My name is **Ethan Pearson** and I'm a second-year student in the McCollough Institute for Pre-Medical Scholars. McCollough has been one of the most enriching programs at UA, as it has developed my ability to collaborate and approach solutions from a multitude of perspectives. More specifically to the healthcare industry, this institution has stressed the importance of the application of medical soft skills and ethics in a driven effort to recenter care around the patient. This more holistic approach to health along with the plethora of skills I've picked up have further prepared me for life after college and driven me to further involvement on campus.

Within SGA, I was able to put together a successful campaign and become an elected Arts and Science senator. I am currently developing legislation to assist pre-medical students along with improving the whole of UA. Within my fraternity, I have been fortunate enough to serve as our Treasurer over the past year. This executive position has allowed me to work further in the Tuscaloosa community and continue to develop as a leader. I am also a part of the Blackburn Institute and AED premedical honor society. Over the summer, I was accepted into the St. Luke's Medical Mentor Program where I was able to shadow the esteemed infectious disease specialist Dr. Simms. I also volunteer at DCH in the cancer treatment infusion center. These tangible

healthcare experiences help connect the lessons we learn in class and offer an opportunity to explore different dimensions of the healthcare industry. Along with this involvement, I was able to be on the President's list over my first two semesters.

I am very grateful for the opportunities and development this program has brought me and all the other scholars. I believe this program's wonderful faculty and unique approach gives all its scholars a sizable advantage moving further into the medical field and throughout the rest of their life.



Adonai Ross

My name is **Adonai Ross**, and I'm from Houston, Texas. I graduated from St. John's School just this past May. Currently, I'm deeply engrossed in self-inquiry, striving to make it a regular practice in my life. In my spare time, you'll often find me cooking, enjoying the company of close friends, or listening to music—especially Zach Bryan and Joy Oladokun. I come from a large family, with an older brother, an older sister, two younger brothers, and a younger sister. Being part of a six-member squad, this campus' liveliness feels like a taste of home.

My college journey has just begun, and I've already seen remarkable personal growth, thanks to the nurturing embrace of the McCollough community. I can hardly wait to learn and grow with guidance from peers, professors, and health professionals. I'm excited to forge deeper connections with each one of you, fostering not only intellectual growth but also engaging in a rich cultural exchange. Roll Tide!



Noah Taeckens

Hello! My name is **Noah Taeckens**, and I am from Ann Arbor, Michigan, although I spent the first 15 years of my life in Syracuse, New York. I graduated from Huron High School, where I served as President of the HOSA Chapter, and was a Board Member for our Business Professionals of America club. Additionally, I was fortunate enough to be named a National Merit Commended Scholar and recently became certified as a Clinical Medical Assistant. Outside of academics, I was the captain of my school's tennis team and am a sports fanatic. My favorite sports are football, basketball, and tennis. I also enjoy hanging out with friends, and hiking.

At Alabama, in addition to the McCollough minor, I am majoring in Psychology and am part of the STEM path to MBA program. My interest in both medicine and business comes from my desire to challenge myself and find a way to help others. Because of my passion for both fields, I hope to become a physician executive who splits time between patient care and administrative duties. It is a tremendous honor to be part of the McCollough Institute of Pre-Medical Scholars Class of 2027. I am already thrilled with the cooperative learning experiences I've had with the other amazing students in the program. I'm so excited about all the wonderful opportunities that the University of Alabama and McCollough provide students. Roll Tide!!!





Anna Barthes

My name is **Anna Barthes** and I'm from Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. Being raised in a family heavily involved in the medical field, my desire to pursue a career in medicine was a long-held aspiration. So, when touring colleges, I knew it was important to choose a school that would provide me with the best resources to help accomplish that dream. Upon visiting The University of Alabama, it became apparent that the McCollough Institute for Pre-Medical Scholars would play a pivotal role in shaping my undergraduate journey. Despite being only a second-year student in the McCollough Institute, I can confidently say this program has been a large contributor to my success at The University of Alabama, and its impact will reach far into my future, both in the personal and professional realms.

One of my favorite aspects about the McCollough curriculum so far is that it's almost entirely based around discussion. As opposed to a standard lecture, students are sharing their thoughts and ideas, challenging and questioning other students, and developing their critical thinking skills. During the first year in the program, each student is required to take Medical Foundations I and II. These classes instruct students about the philosophical and social aspects pertaining to the field of medicine. Various topics are discussed throughout the course, such as culture, ethics, death, race, and clinical reasoning. Exposure to such a vast number of topics helps students within the program immensely when it comes to honing in on their professional interests. For me, this coursework and curriculum was influential in my decision to apply for the Accelerated Masters Program last spring to receive my Masters in Public Health (MPH) upon graduation.

The McCollough Institute for Pre-Medical Scholars has also made it very easy to get involved on campus. The culture has empowered me to give back to our community and make my presence known as a professional and academic. In my first year, I was honored to be chosen as a First Year Councilor within the Student Government Association (SGA). Since then, my involvement in SGA has progressed, and I currently hold the position of Director of Engagement for Student Affairs. In addition to my role in SGA, I've actively participated in various capacities in McCollough. I've been a proactive member of the McCollough Social Committee and proudly represented the Honors College as an Ambassador. Furthermore, I've taken on the role of an ambassador for the College of Human Environmental Sciences, engaging in the college's Council for Engagement and Outreach. Beyond these roles, my engagement extends into my sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, where I play active roles in the Academic, Care, and Quarterly Feedback Committees. Lastly, my involvement in Project Health has enabled me to serve the campus as a Peer Health Intern within the Advocates and GAMMA branches, as well as on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. This array of involvements has allowed me to integrate into our community and leave a lasting impact both as a student and a contributor. What has fueled my growth most is undoubtedly the fact that I have been able to partake in many of these organizations with several of my closest friends- fellow McCollough scholars. The profound influence of the McCollough Institute for Pre-Medical Scholars has left an indelible mark on my professional, personal, and academic growth, for which I am eternally grateful. I am looking forward to the continuation of my journey in McCollough and the forthcoming opportunities it will present over the next two years.

## INSIDE MCCOLLOUGH SCHOLAR PROGRAM EVENTS

### Welcome Back Symposium

McCollough Pre-Medical Scholars Program hosts "Welcome Back Symposium" on August 19, 2022, to encourage students to get actively involved in community engagement and pursue professional shadowing opportunities. One hundred students, medical partners (Billy Kirkpatrick, CEO of Five Horizons Health Services (seen in picture below); Douglas Brewer, CEO of Whitfield Regional Hospital; John Dorsey, Founder & Executive Director of Horseshoe Farm Fellows; Loretta Wilson, CEO of Hill Hospital; Dr. Michael Luther of Cahaba Medical Care-Marion & Frontier Residency Program; and Dr. Pamela Young, Director of Community Engagement & Economic Development), and faculty gathered together to provide opportunities to students. Students learned about local community needs and collaborated with partners to learn about service opportunities available.

